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News Release

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May 1st Snow Survey Results

FORT JONES, CA – Forest Service personnel have completed the May 1st Snow Surveys on the Salmon Scott Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The Snow Survey program enables water managers to better estimate annual runoff available for hydroelectric generation, agriculture and municipal water use, and other water needs.

This month's survey indicates that the snow depth and water content are extremely below average with snow depth at 0% of normal and water content at 0% of normal compared to historical values for May (see Table 1). The snowpack – often called California's largest reservoir – normally provides about a third of the water used by cities and farms as it melts into streams and reservoirs in spring and early summer. California's reservoirs will not be significantly replenished by a melting snowpack this spring and summer. On April 25, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an executive order to strengthen the state's ability to manage water and habitat effectively in drought conditions and called on all Californians to redouble their efforts to conserve water. Visit Drought.Ca.Gov for an update on how the state is dealing with the drought.

The Snow Surveys are measured monthly during the winter and spring months (Feb.- May). Four of five Scott River snow courses were established between 1946 and 1955, with one added in 1986. All of them are located in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley. Some courses are located close to roads while others require hours of travel by snow shoes and snowmobile.

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When conducting a snow survey, the snow depth and water content are measured by a snow sampling tube with a cutter end that is driven through the snow pack, measuring depth. The snow core is then weighed to determine the water content (water equivalent). In addition to snow pack water content data, precipitation, and similar historic hydrologic data are collected. The information is forwarded to the State of California, where the data is compiled with other snow depth reports and becomes part of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys program. The data is managed by the California Department of Water Resources and the information is used to help the State forecast the amount of water available for agriculture, power generation, recreation, and stream flow releases later in the year.

For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources Website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow>. All news releases are posted on the Klamath National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath/news/>

May 1st 2014 Snow Survey Results Scott River Sub-Basin

| Snow Course | Snow Depth | | | Equivalent Water Content | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name | 5/1/2014 | May Historic Average | Current vs. Historic Average | 5/1/2014 | May Historic Average | Current vs. Historic Average |
| | | | | | | |
| Middle Boulder #1 6600' elevation | 0" | 55.1" | 0% | 0" | 27.2" | 0% |
| | <i>(Established 1946)</i> | | | | | |
| Middle Boulder #3 6200' elevation | 0" | 42.0" | 0% | 0" | 20.1" | 0% |
| | <i>(Established 1948)</i> | | | | | |
| Dynamite Meadow 5700' elevation | 0" | 23.3" | 0% | 0" | 10.3" | 0% |
| | <i>(Established 1955)</i> | | | | | |
| Swampy John 5500' elevation | 0" | 55.6" | 0% | 0" | 24.9" | 0% |
| | <i>(Established 1951)</i> | | | | | |
| Scott Mountain 5900' elevation | 0" | 28.8" | 0% | 0" | 13.6" | 0% |
| | <i>(Established 1986)</i> | | | | | |
| Total average: | 0% | | | 0% | | |